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Message Text

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43
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01 /110 W
---------- 119452
R 101648Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7696
INFO AMCONSUL LUBUMBASHI
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 4100

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EMIN, EIND, CG
SUBJECT: WORLD BANK ROLE IN GECAMINES EXPANSION

REF: A. LUBUMBASHI 169
B. LUBUMBASHI 229
C. KINSHASA 4030

1. WORLD BANK REP GUETTA TOLD CHARGE MAY 10 HE OPTIMISTIC THAT, AS RESULT RECENT VISIT AND REPORT BY WORLD BANK EVALUATION MISSION, IBRD AND LIBYA WOULD JOINTLY FINANCE EXTERNAL COSTS OF GECAMINES EXPANSION. GUETTA SAID EARLIER ESTIMATES BY GECAMINES (KINSHASA A-63, APRIL 4) OF EXPANSION COSTS IN NEIGHBORHOOD $240 MILLION WERE MUCH TOO LOW. IBRD ESTIMATES REAL COSTS AROUND $500 MILLION DUE TO ASSOCIATED SOCIAL INVESTMENT REQUIRED (E.G., RELOCATION OF TOWN OF KOLWEZI).

2. GUETTA SAID WORLD BANK EXPERT TEAM HEADED BY GERMAN LADY, HAUG, SPENT SEVERAL WEEKS IN LUBUMBASHI STUDYING ALL ASPECTS OF PROPOSED EXPANSION. TEAM'S REPORT HAS JUST BEEN FORWARDED TO IBRD AND TO LIBYAN GOVT AND GUETTA GOING TO WASHINGTON NEXT WEEK TO PUSH JOINT FINANCING PROPOSAL WHICH, HE CLAIMS, HAS BACKING OF PRESIDENT
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3. LUBUMBASHI'S 229 NOT RECEIVED PRIOR TO ABOVE MEETING. GUETTA, HOWEVER, IMPLIED THAT IBRD TEAM HAD RECOMMENDED GOING BACK TO MODULE AS OPPOSED TO TURNKEY APPROACH FAVORED BY MOST US FIRMS. HE STRESSED US FIRMS WOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY COMPETE ON EQUAL FOOTING WITH OTHER BIDDERS. (REF C TENDS TO BEAR OUT THIS POINT).

4. COMMENT: GUETTA'S PERSONAL STANDING WITH MOBUT AND BISENGIMANA IS HIGH. WE AWAIT WITH INTEREST RESULTS OF LUBUMBASHI'S APPROACH TO UMBA. WHILE WE PRESUME LIBYAN PARTICIPATION IN FINANCING WILL NOT WORK TO DISADVANTAGE OF US BIDDERS, THIS IS POINT DEPARTMENT AND EMBASSY MAY WISH TO EXPLORE FURTHER WITH IBRD AS SITUATION CLARIFIES. NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MINING INDUSTRY, DEVELOPMENT LOANS, PROPOSALS (BID)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KINSHA04100
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740116-0159
From: KINSHASA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740558/aaaabzou.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. LUBUMBASHI 169
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <11 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WORLD BANK ROLE IN GECAMINES EXPANSION
TAGS: EMIN, EIND, CG, LY, IBRD, GECAMINES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

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